

State ordered to appear in court to explain school-funding plan

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The state Supreme Court has ordered the state to explain its actions on court-ordered K-12 education funding at a Sept. 7 hearing.

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OLYMPIA — The state Supreme Court has ordered the state to appear in court before the justices decide whether to lift or add to sanctions in the McCleary school-funding case.

In an [order released Thursday morning](#), the justices also listed the questions they want the state and the plaintiffs to answer in a hearing scheduled for Sept. 7.

Among other items, the justices want to hear the state's explanation for why its most recent school-funding plan, approved by this year's Legislature, satisfies the court's call for a plan to satisfy the court's 2012 McCleary decision.

Justices are also calling for the state to give an estimate for much money will be needed to provide market-rate salaries for school employees.

Lawmakers have been hung up on that part, because school districts use local property-tax levies to supplement what the state provides for salaries. The McCleary ruling has said those salaries are part of a basic education that the state is required to pay for.

Although lawmakers and Gov. Jay Inslee have poured billions into K-12 education, they've stalled on finishing the final elements needed to comply with the McCleary ruling.

Because of that, the court is holding the state in contempt. Last August, the court ordered the state to pay a [\\$100,000-per-day fine](#) for not making enough progress.

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